

Latte, Sugar Free

by

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1 - INT. RESTAURANT ENTRANCE. DAY.

ODELIA, a receptionist of 27 y/o, sits at her desk at a large pastoral restaurant. She watches a video on her phone.

On her phone Odelia sees an interview of JONATHAN JEFFREY, a Hollywood director of 35 y/o, who looks like a hipster, wearing glasses and a hat.

INTERVIEWER (O.S)

So, your last movie "I, Zombie",
nominated for an Oscar, is actually
based on your short student film,
which was awarded as the best "One
Man Crew" film?

Jeffrey raises his head as if he finds the question interesting.

INTERVIEWER (O.S)

Why did you choose to shoot a film
all by yourself?

Suddenly Odelia notices a couple entering the restaurant. She raises her head and sees a bourgeois couple of 35 y/o, NADAV and LEETAL, both dressed elegantly. Leetal carries a laptop briefcase. Odelia stands up and approaches them.

ODELIA

Hey, are you on the list?

NADAV

Yeah, we're booked with Jonathan
Jeffrey.

Odelia runs through her folder.

ODELIA

You must be... Nadav and Leetal?

Nadav nods. Odelia bursts into excitement.

ODELIA

Is he filming something in Israel?
When is it? What's the film about?

Nadav and Leetal exchange awkward glances.

ODELIA

Oh, I'm so sorry, I'm over-excited
a bit. Follow me, please.

Nadav and Leetal follow Odelia inside the restaurant.

They find the restaurant almost empty, with only a few people
here and there, delivering a sense of artistic alienation.
Odelia walks in front of them and speaks in the process.

ODELIA

By the way, if you need an actor
for beat roles, I'm at your service.
I studied acting at Ben Zvi.
Also, I'm very good at English.

NADAV

Sounds great! Where've you been
acting? I think we're gonna...

Leetal pushes Nadav with her elbow, interrupting him. Nadav
glances at Leetal and continues as if doing so on purpose.

NADAV

I think we might need an actress.
Let's discuss this after the
meeting, alright?

2 - INT. RESTAURANT. DAY.

Odelia takes Nadav and Leetal to a VIP table next to a window.
The table looks organized way better than the others. The couple
look excited. They sit down next to each other.

ODELIA

You'll be served in a moment.
Good luck!

Odelia leaves. Leetal turns on her laptop and opens a script
document. Nadav is surprised.

NADAV

Leetal, what are you doing? We've got an ending already!

LEETAL

I know, I just wanna read through...

NADAV

Alright, then, give me a moment. I'll sort a couple of things.

Nadav drags the laptop to himself.

LEETAL

By the way, I thought we agreed on proposing two versions of the ending.

NADAV

This is unprofessional, okay?

Leetal sees Nadav selected a scene.

LEETAL

So you choose to stick to yours?

NADAV

Because my version works better.

Leetal throws an angry glance at him and prepares to answer when suddenly YONI, a 35 y/o waiter, approaches them. Yoni looks neglected, unshaven, bent forward, and somewhat depressed. He looks like he fakes a smile as he speaks.

YONI

Good afternoon! What would you like to order?

Nadav and Leetal refuse. Yoni freezes for a moment as if he recognizes them.

YONI

Leetal? Nadav?

They glance at him with confusion.

YONI

Yoni. We studied filmmaking together
at the Alon Cinema High School.
Class of 1998.

Nadav and Leetal exchange glances.

LEETAL

Hey Yoni!

Nadav stands up and shakes Yoni's hand. Seizing the moment,
Leetal drags the laptop back to herself.

NADAV

Long time no see, Yoni, how are you?

YONI

I'm fine. What about you? I heard
you're meeting with J. Jeffrey?

Nadav sits down, overseeing Leetal doing something on the
laptop. He keeps talking to Yoni, peeking at the laptop to see
what she is doing.

NADAV

Yeah, it's about time!

YONI

Wow, nice! Have a good luck!

NADAV

Thanks, man! What about you? Still
living in Dimona?

YONI

Ah, no! I moved to Rishon already!

NADAV

Rishon? I remember you were planning
to move to LA or something, to set
foot in the industry?
Didn't work quite well?

Leetal throws a disapproving glance at Nadav. Nadav keeps nervously peeking at the laptop, trying to ignore Yoni.

Suddenly Yoni sits down in front of them, looking more serious.

YONI

Look, I'm writing a feature-length film, and I wanna send it to Jeffrey. But first I need a way to mingle him somehow.

(leans down)

Can you help me get a job on his set?

The nervous Nadav sees Leetal starts typing.

NADAV

Leetal, what are you doing?

LEETAL

I backed up my version...

Nadav calms down. Yoni stares at them, waiting for an answer.

YONI

So, can you?... Any job would be fine!
Even a waterboy!

Nadav and Leetal exchange glances. Yoni stares at them, anxious. Nadav opens a menu and starts searching for something.

NADAV

"Boy"?... Yoni, you're 35...

YONI

Yeah, but... Just ask him! Tell him
I'd volunteer for anything!

Nadav finds something on the menu and points there.

NADAV

Cappuccino, please. The big one.
Leetal, would you like something?

Leetal refuses. Yoni nods, writes down the order, and leaves.

Leetal throws a judgmental glance at Nadav. Nadav ignores it and reads through what Leetal has been writing all along.

3 - INT. RESTAURANT. DAY. (LATER)

Yoni returns to the couple, carrying a cup of cappuccino.

LEETAL

What's wrong with my version again?

NADAV

The "personal is political" message
is simply not delivered here...

LEETAL

But why not? If you tell about...

Yoni puts the cup of cappuccino in front of Nadav.

NADAV

Thank you.

YONI

So, what's your film about?

NADAV

It's not a good time, Yoni.
Can we talk later?

Leetal interrupts Nadav and answers Yoni.

LEETAL

Okay, imagine an Israeli version of
"Gangs of New York." A barren family
adopts a Palestinian kid whose
parents were killed in a war, while
the adoptive father is actually
an IDF officer.

YONI

Nice! Sounds interesting! Although
Scorsese's movies are kinda
overrated nowadays.

Nadav looks around, embarrassed, as if he's afraid that someone might have heard it. Leetal speaks to break the awkward silence.

LEETAL

So... what is YOUR film about?

Nadav rolls his eyes and starts drinking his cappuccino.

YONI

It's a horror movie about...

NADAV

(interrupts Yoni)

Can you add some milk to the coffee?

Yoni stops talking and nods. Nadav gives him the cappuccino.

YONI

Sure.

Yoni takes the cup and leaves.

Leetal gives Nadav a judgemental glance.

NADAV

What?!

4 - INT. RESTAURANT. DAY. (LATER)

Yoni returns with the cappuccino, some plates, forks, knives, glasses, and a bottle of wine. He gives Nadav his cappuccino and starts organizing the table, listening to the couple's arguing.

LEETAL (O.S)

He enters the bus with the bomb and suddenly meets his stepmother. This alone delivers the message already.

NADAV

No, no, no! It doesn't deliver anything! It's not impactful enough.

YONI

Why don't you leave an open ending?

Nadav and Leetal pause and look at him.

YONI

Just cut it at the right time,
without telling the audience
whether he committed the terror
attack or not.

Yoni sits down by the table with the duo.

YONI

Listen. What do you think about me
joining you as a co-writer? I loved
your idea so much! I'd be glad to
take part in it.

NADAV

Yoni, we're a little busy here.
It's not a good time, okay?

Yoni eyes Nadav in disbelief. A few seconds later he leaves the
couple and moves on to organizing a table far behind them.

Nadav and Leetal watch him going away. Leetal speaks to Nadav
quietly, so that Nadav won't hear them.

LEETAL

You gotta stop treating him like this.

NADAV

(Normal volume)

Like what? He's out of his mind?

LEETAL

So what? You could be a little bit
more polite!

NADAV

Polite? He is a pain in the butt!
Do you want him to ruin our meeting?

LEETAL

You're exaggerating!

NADAV

Am I exaggerating?!

Nadav notices he speaks too loudly, and peeks back at Yoni to make sure he can't hear them. Yoni keeps cleaning a table.

NADAV

(whispers)

Did you forget how he embarrassed us when we were shooting our high school short film?

LEETAL

Do you remember what we did to him?

NADAV

What did we do to him?!

(lowers his volume)

Suppose we hadn't boycotted him, do you think anyone would have shown up for him filming?...

Leetal wants to reply, when suddenly Nadav receives an SMS.

They glance at Nadav's phone and see a message from Jeffrey, "I'll be in 10 min." Nadav glances at Leetal, then back at Yoni.

NADAV

I'm not going to stand this anymore.
I'm going to get us a new waiter!

LEETAL

Wait!

Leetal stops him as he prepares to get up.

LEETAL

Let's finish the ending first.
It's more important right now.

Nadav calms down seeing Leetal's confidence. They turn back to the laptop. In the background, Yoni finishes his work.

5 - INT. RESTAURANT. DAY. (LATER)

Yoni returns with some papers.

LEETAL (O.S)

So here is how it goes. He will try
to prevent the terror attack, but
the cops would think he was a
collaborator! What do you say?

Nadav frowns. Yoni approaches them, puts the papers on the
table, and sits down in front of them.

NADAV

What's that?

YONI

I've got a few ideas for your film
And I'd gladly collaborate with you,
but first I need you to sign this
paper agreement.

Nadav and Leetal exchange glances, shocked. Nadav looks tired.

LEETAL

Listen, Yoni, you're a great guy
and I do appreciate you but you're
pushing it too far!

Nadav nods in approval. In response, Yoni points at the papers.

YONI

Why don't you just take a look?

LEETAL

But we're busy here, can't you see?!

Yoni eyes both Nadav and Leetal and nods in realization.

YONI

You haven't changed, have you?
Can't even take a moment to read!

Leetal takes a deep breath.

LEETAL

Listen. It's a filmmakers' business meeting and you're interrupting it right now!

Yoni lowers his glance, humiliated, remains this way for a few seconds, as if refusing to believe her words. A few seconds later he nods, turns around and starts walking away.

LEETAL

Wait!

Yoni turns around.

LEETAL

Can you bring me Latte? Sugar free.
(supercilious fake smile)
Thank you!

Yoni nods, humiliated to the end. He turns around and walks away

Nadav stares at the self-confident Leetal, both with admiration and fear. She goes on writing the script, paying no attention to the surprised Nadav.

6+7 - EXT. PARKING STATION / INT. RESTAURANT. DAY.

An expensive car stops at the parking lot. The door opens and a man wearing elegant boots and pants steps out of it.

INTERCUT TO 7:

Leetal types at her laptop. Nadav peeks out of the window and spots the man getting out of the car. He nervously signals Leetal. Both see the man approaching and grow nervous.

INTERCUT TO 6:

We see the man's expensive suit but not his face.

INTERCUT TO 7:

Nadav reads Leetal's writings.

NADAV

Why would he... Leetal, my dear, you are complicating everything. We already have an ending, let's just stick to it! Just stop, please!

LEETAL

Try to envision what I'm trying to deliver. I really want to show the "injustice" here.

NADAV

What's the deal with "injustice"? Why do you always have to push your "injustice" everywhere?

Leetal goes on writing and arguing with Nadav at the same time.

INTERCUT TO 6:

The man in the suit starts heading towards the restaurant.

INTERCUT TO 7:

LEETAL

Are you serious? This is going to make it more appealing!

NADAV

It's not the time to be "creative"! Oh, wait, I get it! It's because of that producer, isn't it? THE injustice? Trying to bring him up again? Is this what it's all about?

LEETAL

What?! What does this have to do with any of it?!

INTERCUT TO 6:

The man in the suit proceeds towards the restaurant.

INTERCUT TO 7:

Nadav tries to see what Leetal writes but she won't let him.

NADAV

Hey! You know, this film is mine
as well as it is yours, do you?

Nadav angrily drags the laptop to himself, but Leetal stops him.

LEETAL

Stop it, Nadav! Count on me! For
God's sake, count on me for once!
This is going to be a great ending!
Just trust me! Okay?

NADAV

Dear God...

Nadav freezes. They exchange glances. Nadav calms down. Nods.
Leetal goes on writing.

INTERCUT TO 6:

The man in the suit approaches the entrance of the restaurant.

INTERCUT TO 7:

Leetal types very quickly. Nadav throws nervous glances between
the window, the entrance, and Leetal.

8 - INT. RESTAURANT. DAY.

Leetal finishes typing and lets Nadav read it. As he reads
through, his face changes to surprise. Leetal glances back at
him, proud. Nadav nods in admiration.

Moments later, the man in the suit enters the restaurant. The
man meets Odelia and she points at Nadav and Leetal.

The man approaches Nadav and Leetal. He looks about 35, tall and
handsome in good shape, neat, and wearing sunglasses.

Nadav and Leetal stand up. Nadav stretches out his hand to greet the man. At the same time, Yoni returns with a cup of Latte.

NADAV

Mr. Jeffrey?

The man ignores Nadav and speaks to Yoni.

MAN IN SUIT

Jonathan?

Nadav and Leetal exchange surprised glances. Yoni stops.

MAN IN SUIT

Why are you dressed like a waiter?

They look at Yoni, confused.

NADAV

(to the man in the suit)

Wait, are you not...

MAN IN SUIT

I'm Steve, Jonathan's driver.

Nadav and Leetal look back at Yoni.

All of a sudden, Yoni straightens up, removes the waiter's suit, and puts on a hat and glasses.

Yoni points at the contract papers. Leetal picks it up and sees the title - "Jeffrey's Productions". She shows it to Nadav.

Nadav and Leetal stare at each other, petrified. Leetal wants to speak but can't say a word.

Yoni puts the cup of Latte next to Leetal.

YONI

Latte. Sugar free.

CUT TO BLACK: